

THE  
LIFE, VOYAGES,  
AND *2,*  
TRAVELS,  
OF

Thomas Jenkins, & David Lowellin,

THROUGH THE UNKNOWN

TRACTS OF AFRICA.

With the Manner how LOWELLIN lived eight Years on an uninhabited Spot; and, having sustained many dangerous Attacks from the wild Beasts and Savages, returned safe to London, in September, 1784, after having been fourteen Years in those extensive Regions.

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LONDON:

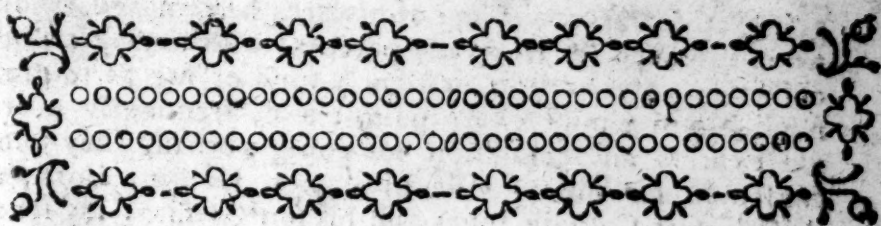
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THE  
LIVES, VOYAGES, AND TRAVELS,  
OF  
Thomas Jenkins, and David Lowelin.

**I** DAVID LOWELLIN, was born near the spot where the castle of Methravil once stood, in the county of Montgomery, Anno 1726. I removed thence with my parents, to an hereditary estate of their own, situate between Aberistwith and Cardigan, on the sea coast, when about three years old; and, having a full prospect of the vessels passing up and down the channel from my father's door, my early attention was from time to time engrossed by them, and frequent enquiries were made concerning them; which increased as my ideas opened, till they became troublesome, and often difficult for those near me to answer; which raised in me a desire of seeing those fine cities, towns and countries, I so frequently heard magnified by servants and others daily conversant with me, whose delight was to explain such innocent enquiries to my satisfaction, whether truly acquainted with the subject or not; as some, who had never been twenty miles from the spot, would, from hear-say alone, entertain me with various relations of many distant parts, adding plausible embellishments to excite my wonder; whereof my indulgent parents approved, without reflecting on the impression it made on my tender mind, till I had imbibed such inclinations for

going to sea as could not afterwards be removed, though never intended for it by my parents, who having no other children, were both so extremely fond of me as to gratify my desire in almost every point; and, frequently hearing me express an inclination for going abroad, they jointly consented for me to visit Liverpool, Dublin, Cork, and Bristol, with Captain Jones and his son Griffith, my school-fellow, who had been several trips at sea before.

This youth was of a rambling disposition, and filled my head with such idle notions of the empires, kingdoms, nations, valuable commodities, and riches, of the globe, confirming all he said as really true, that I was brought to believe him, through seeing the numerous shipping, docks, and merchants yards, with the elegant streets, squares, and magnificent structures, contained in those cities.

I returned from this voyage at the latter end of October, 1741, after having been full three months absent from my parents, who received me with inexpressible joy, thinking it would be the last I should ever make, having consented thereto purely to gratify my curiosity, without suspecting that I should have any such like request to make in future; and, when they found me so determined to continue traversing the rugged element, their grief became unconceivably great, and increased with reflecting on their indulgent conduct, for not suppressing it in time, by properly checking servants on every occasion, which they knew had been totally neglected; and perceiving it to originate from their over fondness of me, a return to Montgomeryshire was proposed and accordingly took place, in May, 1742, to a house nearly surrounded with hills and woods, plentifully stocked with game, and situate near the banks of the Virnew, thinking to wear it from my thoughts by other amusements, namely, by fishing, fowling, setting, cards, dice, music, and dancing, with suitable company. Never was proper advice wanting, or more pains with less success; every proposal tending towards the establishment of my future peace being unhappily considered by me as detrimental to it; for, being unable to procure leave to set out, I most indiscreetly threw off that filial duty which I ought to have holden most dear, and took 120 pounds sterling out

of my father's escrutoire, and therewith decamped by night disguised in a waterman's habit. I arrived at Landerine before day-light, whence I got a passage to Worcester city in a barge laden with timber, and thence to Broadley, and there took passage for Cork, where I arrived on the first of March, 1744, just fifteen days after I left my father's house, being in the eighteenth year of my age.

So intent was I in going I know not whither, that I indented myself for three years servitude with the commander of a snow belonging to Liverpool, who assisted me in the purchase of proper necessaries for my voyage, and took me on board the vessel, being then laden with provisions for the West Indies, to whose people I instantly became subservient, but could not reconcile my hands to the coréage, which in a few days made them so extremely sore, that I could not hold fast enough to prevent myself from dropping off the sprit-sail yard into such a rapid tide, as instantly waisted me along side; which the captain observing, he jumped into the boat and drew me out by the hair of the head, just time enough to save me from perishing. This providential delivery from the jaws of death, in such an instant of time, brought me to reflect on the disobedient conduct shewn to the best of parents, in leaving them as I had not before thought of; nay, every fault I had been guilty of accused me of truly meriting all the punishment which the just vengeance of heaven thought proper to inflict.

In this situation of mind I proposed to send a letter to my parents, in order to crave their pardon, as also of making my case known to the worthy commander. But this laudable design was over-ruled by a ridiculous notion of being jeered by my companions for undertaking what I had not courage to go through stich; therefore I resolved to pursue my first plan, by endeavouring to surmount every obstacle thus marked out by my own indiscretion; and, having lost our second mate, with three other hands, by the oversetting of a boat, and two more that gave us slip by night, one being the ship's cook, and the captain observing the condition of my hands, ordered me to officiate in his room. The change had the desired effect in every



thing but drawing water, wherein others were ordered to assist till my hands became seasoned to it. But the figure I cut in pairing the potatoes for lobscouse, making bergow, boiling beef, pork, and plumb pudding, washing greasy bowls, platters, pots and pans, routing among coals, and making fires, was truly piteous, being curiously painted with sut and flush.

We sailed from Cove in the beginning of April, with many other vessels outward bound; and, having a fine passage, arrived at St. John's, in the island of Antigua, about six weeks after; where, having delivered our cargo, we sailed for York town, in Virginia, to take in a cargo of tobacco for Liverpool, and arrived there in the month of July, by which time my hands were become pretty well seasoned, though still in the cook's office, which confined me to the vessel more than any of the ship's crew, which was considered as a kind of prison, and my indenture a warrant of detainure to keep me from traversing the continent of America, which my rambling thoughts run so much on as to make me forget the obligations due to the worthy commander, for saving my life in the harbour of Cove, and other indulgent favours conferred on me during the voyage, most obstinately breaking through the agreement subsisting between us, by artfully giving him the slip, and flying to the house of a planter for shelter; but the place of my retreat being shortly made known to the captain, he ordered me on board, and complaining of my ingratitude, embellished my hands with a pair of ruffles, humourously saying, they became me very well, as being ornamental and useful on the present occasion. But having small hands, and the irons being over large, I privately drew them in and out at pleasure, without being suspected, till a suitable opportunity of escaping thence afforded, through the means of a country skipper, who came along side with a lading of tobacco, and privately agreed to carry me to his friend's house, where I might be concealed till after the vessel left New York, for one guinea reward; and to bring it about properly, I stepped on shore in the evening, concealing myself in a bush near the water-side, whence they took me as the flat passed along with the tide a-flood, on having a quarterly wind.

The next day he brought me into the company of Mr. George Sinclair, at his own house near West Point, who being made acquainted with the concern, positively refused to shelter me under his roof, on no other conditions than that of serving him as an apprentice, for the period of two years, to his trade or occupation of shoemaker, which I preferred to the mortification of being conducted back to the vessel, which without my speedy compliance, I foresaw must really have been the case; therefore, without hesitating, the bargain was struck, indentures drawn up, and properly executed between us, when I found my new master's family to consist of five in number, viz. himself, wife, and three children; the two youngest females, the oldest a youth about eighteen, brought up to the gentle craft, who became my chief instructor, and very suitable one he proved, on account of his being well versed in the French language, having learned it of his mother, who was descended from parents of that nation, and her husband taking delight therein, it was more practised than English, that it might thereby become more easy to the family; and it so far engrossed my attention, as considering my restless fancy, made these two years servitude pass on more delightful than could otherwise have been expected.

The pleasure I took in the study of the French language, so confined me to the shop and house, that I seldom or ever went out, except in the company of some one or other of the family, who seeing how diligent I was to learn, took so much pains to instruct me therein, that by the expiration of my time, I could not only converse in, but also read and write French tolerably well. During that period I sent two letters home, without receiving any reply to either; whereupon I immediately conjectured that they would not vouchsafe to write to me on account of my disobedient conduct.

Being now at liberty to pursue the dictates of my own fancy, I, without further remorse, shipped myself with Captain Yates, in a sloop belonging to Boston, then at West-point, she being a trader from port to port along the American coast, and sometimes thence to the West-India islands, with lumber, bringing rum and sugar in return; which in some measure

satisfied my rambling curiosity, as in this vessel I had the opportunity of learning the art of navigation, and visiting many strange parts, which was the only thing I hankered after. But one day she sprang a leak, in a gale of wind, having the pumps choaked with sand ballast, and we must have inevitably foundered or been lost, had not a passenger shewn us how to make canvas boxes, which delivered sand and water just sufficient to keep her up till we reached New London.

This second escape brought past things to remembrance, and wrote a third letter home to my father. His reply came to hand in June 1749, with an account of its being the first he had received from me, as also of my mother's death, and his own health in such a dangerous situation as to have been given up by the physicians; and with a view to enforce my speedy return, had enclosed a remittance for one hundred pounds sterling, payable at sight by a Philadelphia merchant. This letter I shewed to the captain, acquainting him at the same time with a minute detail of my past life. To which he replied, you could not have prevailed on me to have engaged you as a hand in this sloop, through fear of bringing the divine wrath upon me, had I known it sooner; and, as it hath pleased God to keep you above water so long, I most humbly hope he will preserve you safe throughout the passage to England where I advise you to go without delay, as I dare not keep you any longer,

These words, added to the effecting lines I had just read, threw me into a kind of melancholy reflections concerning this happy misfortune; which self-accusation gave me to understand I had been the sole cause of; and then, too late to remedy the evil, I flew to Philadelphia, received the cash, and took a passage to Bristol, in the ship Sampson, with a much stronger desire to be at home than ever I had to leave it; and, after six weeks run, met with a gale of wind in the chops of the channel, which carried us into Kinsale; whence I took my rout for Dublin, and thence to Park-gate



in the packet ; where I took horse, and got home by the latter end of August ; and there only found two servants in deep mourning, from whom I soon learned that my mother, on finding my clothes in a closet where I had left them, at first sight, fell into a kind of trembling, through fear of my having made away with myself, in some shape or other, which being followed by a nervous fever, occasioned her death nine months after, but that my father was of a different opinion, by reason of the desire I had to travel : and, missing the cash, believed I had taken it for such purpose ; nevertheless diligent search was made in the ponds, rivers, and woods, for several days, at my mother's request, messengers were sent to Bristol, Liverpool, as also to my father's estate on the sea coast, and other parts, without being able to gain the least intelligence of me, insomuch that my uncle, his family, and the neighbouring inhabitants, were greatly divided in point of opinion, some believing that I was deprived of life through design or accident, while others believed me to have privately withdrawn myself in disguise, being strongly confirmed in their opinion by many corroborating circumstances.

My father's health began to decline soon after my mother's death, and his disorder never left him, although not thought dangerous till within a month of the time he received my letter, when he died : and all parties jointly agreed in accusing me as highly culpable for not acquainting them with a proper account of my intended voyage, by a letter from Cove, which was my duty ; as such timely information would, in course have prevented the melancholy catastrophe from having happened. This point of neglect threw me into despair, which was highly increased by the visible gloom that appeared in every countenance ; though my father had, in his last moments, enjoyed his select friends to overlook it, as a thoughtless incident ; which any other youth might have been guilty of, and not make the remaining part of my life unhappy on account of that, which he was pleased to say, my own conscience would, in future, sufficiently punish for ; and this was truly verified : for I believe myself to have been the

cause of shortening their days, and in consequence thereof had excluded myself from all hopes of salvation.

I chiefly dreamed by night of what I had been musing on the day before; and continued thus oppressed in my mind, till, in order to relieve myself therefrom, I began to think of suicide; but the everlasting punishment due to such a crime deterring me therefrom, I entered my closet, and earnestly began to pray to God to shew me some mark of his enlightened grace, if my greivous sins were not altogether unpardonable. I remained for some considerable time pouring out my soul to him who gave it; then arising from my knees, I withdrew into the adjoining room, and, taking, a turn or two, threw myself on the bed to meditate; when the following came into my thoughts, "I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful;" and, gladly applying it to my own case, a dawn of hope ensued, which was followed by a comfortable nap, wherein me thought I saw a considerable large orifice in the wrist of my arm, which looked raw within, and dry about the edge, as though it had been made for some considerable time, with the sharp and rugged end of a broken stick or split piece of wood. Upon the skin appeared two things as black as jet, being no longer than small sticks, resembling beetles or clocks which live in cellars, or damp places, crawling so artfully to and fro about the orifice, as that with all my studious care I could not prevent them from creeping into it, where they burying themselves in the flesh, shot their spawn or brood in such a manner as that the vitals soon became invisibly infested, without feeling any pain except that of the mind, though apparently unable to extricate either of them; whereby I was so greatly agitated, as to think of sending for a physician to try his skill.

When awaking from my dream, I rembered every particular, at the same time looking upon it as a heavenly impulse, thus typically revealed to answer my request, in thereby shewing me what power Satan hitherto had got over me, as I now perceived that every sinful thought and action of my whole life originally sprang from his infusion. I therefore cried out, saying, O Lord, be thou my physician, I beseech thee, and enable me to resist and overcome the common enemy of mankind.

After this I remained pretty well composed for several days, though not entirely satisfied in mind concerning my own salvation; till one day, when leaning back in a great chair, and falling into a kind of dose, but whether asleep or awake I do not pretend to say, because I really thought myself awake, I observed a person of nearly my own stature gradually approach me, concealing all the way of his features from my view; when near he pronounced these words, "Believe and be saved." Then he vanished from my sight like a shadow. This unexpected favour entirely convinced me that I was not out of the reach of mercy. My hopes therefore increased, and I became very thankful for having been thus happily prevented from putting a period to my existence.

I now viewed my former ideas with great horror of mind, and in order to wear them off entirely from my thoughts, I determined on moving to some distant parts, where the affair was altogether unknown, which I directly put in practice, by ordering my household furniture, and other concerns, to be disposed of with all convenient speed; and, having turned them into cash, found myself possessed of four thousand pounds, exclusive of my estate on the sea coast, which brought in one hundred, neat produce. Then dismissing my servants with suitable presents, to make amends for the hasty manner of it, I took leave of my relations and other select friends, and directed my rout across the mountains of Cardigan. When I arrived there, I sent for my tenant, and, having settled matters with him to my wish, I took a passage with Griffith Jones, my old ship-mate, who, at this time, had a sloop of his own bound for London, where merchants goods from Liverpool, having put in there by contrary winds two days after my arrival. Upon hearing of it, I quickly made myself and design known to him, whereat he shewed me much pleasure in having my company to London, where we, after a delightful passage of twelve days, arrived in July, 1750; and being hauled alongside of Cotton's wharf, I took lodgings with an acquaintance of his own on Tower-hill; whence we in visiting the curiosities, public gardens, and other places of resort, accidentally met with an acquaintance of good family at Sad-



ler's Well's, who, having been some years in London, strongly invited us both to come and spend an evening at his lodging in Leicester-square; which we accepted of, and found him in a very genteel situation to all appearance, with several companions of mean aspect in company; and spending the evening very agreeably, it was followed by other visits from time to time.

We soon became as intimately connected together as formerly, inasmuch that, when my friend Griffith left us, I took apartments under the same room roof. Here our favourite diversions were cards and dice, whereat I and my companion, Mr. Thomas Jenkins, were continually partners, and frequently came off winners to the amount of five or ten pounds, and sometimes more, for the space of a month or five weeks running, which I ascribed to our superior skill; but was therein highly deceived; for, luck taking a different turn, we lost seven hundred pounds at one sitting, whereat my partner shewed no farther concern than telling me it was not the first time he had met with such a loss; but that it gave him little or no concern, as he had always got his money back with double interest; and if I would try my luck by joining him again, he would likewise have this sum, or throw as many thousands after it; and, not suspecting any underhand design, I, without any hesitation, accepted his proposal, which, in the conclusion, fleeced me of all I had, my estate likewise being sold to the winner, and the money lost. My partner also pretended to have been so far taken in as not to have enough to discharge his lodgings, which he knew to be the case with me; and, in consequence of such speech, the winners presented us with an hundred pounds each, which my pretended friend said enabled him to discharge his servants and lodgings, as also to undertake his journey to Wales, which he proposed to set out for the next day, leaving me to pursue what course I thought proper; and, being ashamed thereof, I, without mentioning it to any other person, considered the whole as a kind of temporal punishment, justly due to my past conduct; and, without giving myself any farther concern, I procured sea-cloaths, and soon got a birth in a vessel bound for Leghorn.

I continued in the Straits trade till the beginning of the year 1757, when I betook myself to his Majesty's service, and remained in it till the conclusion of the war, which being over, I continued sailing to various parts of the globe in different bottoms, which having nothing more than what commonly happened to a sea-faring life, I therefore pass over as unnecessary.

In the month of February, 1770, being taken sick on the passage from Naples to Amsterdam, I was left behind the vessel, at the house of Mr. Dart, at the English Flag, in Younger-street, for sick quarters; where money running short, I, at his request shipped myself for the East Indies, under the denomination of a Dane, no Englishmen being admitted into that service knowingly. The regular wages before the mast are eleven guilders per month, making just twenty shillings, English money; with a bounty of 850 guilders instead of a venture, which none is allowed to carry; but the money is always duly paid on the ship's return to Holland, whereto we may add another, which they also call a bounty of 200 guilders, for which sum the person shipped receives a note from the clerk at the India House, payable at the return of the ship's books from the Cape of Good Hope, purporting that the person so shipped is still living, the latter being only a deception to all strangers, as it is only advance-money, and as such deducted from their wages, wherein I was also deceived, and should, if I had come home in the vessel, have lost ninety guilders by selling the note for one hundred and ten before we sailed; which I only mention by way of caution to others.

Matters being thus settled, I went on board, and in May sailed from the Texel with a favourable gale, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Jenkins, my Leicester-square partner, with whom I had been so intimately unfortunate, whom I now found accoutred in a jacket and trowsers, though very sick and unfit for a sailor's employ. The short account was so very lame and trifling, as does not appear worth inserting; I therefore pass it over, and only mention the perturbation of mind I saw him in, being too great to admit of exaggeration. I therefore, commiserating such distress, made his case known to the commander, who understood me in the French language, and directly ordered Jenkins to such employ as

appeared most suitable to his capacity; and, finding him unwilling to enter into the particulars of his distress, I did not think proper to make any addition thereto by urging such recital; but, on the contrary, past all over unnoticed, doing all in my power to serve him, which proved very lucky, as he had no other on board to converse with, though some of the people had a little broken English. I therefore became his chief instructor, often assisting him with what appeared likely to afford him the most relief, whereby his affection was entirely gained, which was followed by a solemn league, purposely to stand by and aid each other on all occasions. We had likewise several French hands on board, all of whom I held in no small esteem, on account of their being far more obliging and less deceitful than the Dutch. Their provisions, which were much inferior to those used in the English vessels, proved so great a hardship as I did not get the better of, till extreme hunger made their grout and other dishes to become palatable, or at least not so disagreeable; especially considering that they may be more wholesome because less scorbutic than ours.

From the beginning of July to the 19th of August, we had frequent storms of thunder, lightning, wind and rain, some of which were most tremendous; when being in 13 East longitude, and 15 South latitude, we fell in with a small bark of 12 tons or thereabouts, sloop-rigged, with her mast standing, but all her sails in rags, and no living soul on board that we could perceive. The ship being therefore hove to, and the small boat hoisted out, Jenkins, myself, and a Dutchman, were ordered to go and see what she really was; but how great was our surprise on finding two black men and a boy so much purtrified in the cabin as to be scarce able to bear the stench that issued from the scuttle; which having been properly reported, the captain and other officers unanimously agreed, that the plague, or some other disorder equally infectious, must have been amongst them to occasion such a disaster; and they, in order to prevent the same from being communicated to the crew, most cautiously supplied us with plenty of provisions, water and other necessaries, as also the long boat's suit of sails and pendent, with others to bend them and steer after the ship, keeping them a full league distance from the lee-quarter, and, if we took the infection, to lower the pendent half-mast, but to keep it chock up while our



health continued, without approaching nearer than the limits prescribed, till a proper signal was thrown out.

Being therefore willing to preserve our own lives, we secured down the scuttle without removing the corpses; and having made sail, found eighteen inches water in the hold, when we fell to the pump and soon freed her; then consulting on what further steps were most necessary to be pursued, we thought ourselves more safe from infection while in the open air than if below, and therefore agreed to remain both day and night upon deck, till we should either fall sick or be relieved; but things happened otherwise; for, on the evening of the 24th, the mast was split to shivers, and most of it carried overboard, the Dutchman killed at the helm, both Jekins and I struck senseless to the deck by lightning: and upon coming to ourselves, we could not form any proper idea concerning the melancholy disaster before day-light, when we saw the Dutchman lying under the boom quite lifeless, very much scorched, not three feet of the splintered mast standing, the sails half burnt, and only prevented from being wholly consumed by the torrent of rain that fell during the storm; part of them, with the raft and mast-head, floating along side, the ship standing right from us, at such a distance as to be quite out of sight in two or three hours after; however, on founding the pump, we found she had received little or no damage in her hull, therefore we cleared the wreck, and converted the boom into a jury-mast, endeavoured to make sail after the ship, but were driven fast to leeward by a strong current that set in shore from the south-west.

Notwithstanding every discouraging circumstance that occurred, we, the next day committed the body of our shipmate to the deep, with the ceremony always used on the like occasion.

But now, finding ourselves unable to avoid being carried on the uncivilized part of the African coast, we preferred death by the plague, to the thoughts of being massacred or enslaved by

the natives; and having recommended ourselves to the divine protection, stripped into buff, and drawing the putrified bodies one by one from the cabin launched them overboard: then tearing down part of the bulk-head, took off the hatches to make the air circulate fore and aft; which being done, we scraped and washed the cabin, to expel the obnoxious smell.

A compleat ransack throughout the bark ensued, wherein many useful articles were soon discovered: in particular, two small boxes, one containing six different pieces of stamped cotton, each piece full thirty yards in length, with ten or twelve pounds of thread; the other a quantity of small looking glasses, beads, clasp knives, scissars and needles of different sizes, as if packed up for merchandise, with a direction on each box lid in Portuguese, as we conjectured by the name of St. Salvador being thereon, but could not make sense of any more for want of the language.

Near a hundred weight of gunpowder was likewise found in good condition, as also three times that weight of leaden balls and smaller shot, of different sizes, with a quantity of gun and pistol flints, but no fire arms, or any other thing of consequence; till the next day; when we luckily discovered two musquets with their bayonets, two fowling pieces, two brace of horse and one of pocket pistols, with six small axes, twelve hand saw files, four hammers, a dozen gimblets of different sizes, and two hundred weight of nails, three hand saws, three chissels, three spades, and as many cutlasses in their scabbards, all new, which appeared to have been carefully concealed between the sea-boards under the cabin beds, being all we found except a few ordinary clothes which the blacks used to wear; an earthen pot, two plates, three broken knives, and a wooden can, with about five or six tons of ballast in the hold, but not the least sign of any provisions, roots, fruits, waters, spirits, wine, oil, tallow, or any other thing necessary for the support of human life was to be seen.

Having made such necessary discovery, we jointly agreed, that the poor negroes had not died of the plague or other pestilential distemper; but it appeared most probable, that they, by endeavouring to make their escape from some part of the Brasil coast, had been lost, and starved to death, for want on the vast Atlantic ocean; and what confirmed us more clearly in this opinion was, there being no pen, ink paper, compass, quadrant, or other instrument necessary for the undertaking of such a voyage, less or more than what we brought from the ship. At this time we were in 15 east longitude, and 18 south latitude, still driving towards the land, which we, according to expectation, saw right a-breast on the 29th bearing due east, and looking high, at the distance of seven or eight leagues.

In this situation, we thought it more practicable and likely for us to reach some European settlement on the Guinea coast than the Cape of Good Hope. though at a more greater distance; and therefore we gave up all hopes of gaining the Cape, and putting about, stood to the northward; but all the sail we could make proved sufficient to keep us from being heaved on shore by the current, which drove us to the disagreeable necessity of looking for an opening to run into, being the only chance we had left to prevent the bark from being carried ashore in the furc, which, in the finest weather runs very high on this coast.

It was not long after a suitable opportunity offered for, on the 1st of September, 1770, we anchored in a little cove, or inlet, every where surrounded with hills, woods and rocks, except on the south west corner, whereat we entered with the tide a-flood, as appeared by the vessel's being a-ground so very soon that we could walk round her on the sand full three hours before low water; and seeing no inhabitants, or any other thing to oppose our designs, we therefore, both well armed ventured to ascend the summit of the next adjoining hill; whence the extensive prospect we had of the inland country; with it's rising hills and lofty woods, here and there



diversified with verdant savannahs, and purling rills trickling down the rocks, as also the chanting of numbers of uncommon birds, warbling their wild notes with native harmony, made the aspect of the country to appear truly delightful; and observing that neither house, man or beast appeared in view, concluded this part of the coast to be without inhabitants, and that we had not so much to fear concerning them as was at first expected; therefore on our return to the inlet, we shot a wild turkey, large, fat, and good, whereof we made several delicious meals; but, not being fully convinced of our personal safety, we, to prepare for the worst, removed our most valuable concerns, into a convenient hole in the rock, which had so low and narrow a pass, that only one could enter on his hands and knees, though it contained room enough for a habitation within, if found necessary; and of this hole we made both store-house and magazine, thinking it far more safe than the vessel, which lay on the ground, fully exposed to the natives, if any should appear; a most lucky circumstance for us, for on the eight of the same month, being looking for turtle and other shell-fish, near the entrance of the cave's mouth, without any other weapons of defence than two axes which we had in our hands to knock shell-fish from the rocks, our retreat to the vessel was suddenly cut off by some hundreds of blacks, or negroes, with short hair, all well armed with bows, arrows, and lances; from whom seeing no possible way to escape, we instantly fell into their hand, without the least shadow of resistance; and we were directly marched to the verge of a shady wood, which lay at the other side of the hill; where having made ad halt, they regaled us with plantains, bananas, roasted yams, and a kind of liquor which proved no ways disagreeable, serving it up in cocoa-nut shells, which we received very thankfully, and were offered part of a monkey half raw and half roasted, which they tore in pieces like as many dogs; but of this part of the request we did not chuse to partake.

Preparation for rest being then to be made, they lay themselves down upon the grass, forming a circle around us, with motions for us to lie down also. We complied; and, seeing

no way to escape, remained there about five or six hours; when being regaled with a second repast, they began in the cool of the evening to march due north, and continued on thro' savannahs, with a ridge of hills on the west, till about two hours after sun rise, when we came to another inlet, opening, at the distance of 18 or 20 miles from the former where having made a halt, they refreshed themselves, and went to rest under the shade, as on the day before, all except small parties of six or eight, that went out occasionally to forage and bring in provisions, whereof they did not seem to be in want, as they took three meals each day, but not sleep by night till the 12th, and, after having in the like manner been conducted for about 40 miles to the north-east, we were then sold, or otherwise delivered up to a black, or Indian, with long hair, who appeared to us as a ruler over a great multitude of his own species, being clothed from below the arm-pits to a little above the knees, with a vest curiously made of flax, or such like materials, with four flaps resembling those of a waistcoat, but something broader, having likewise several flat bits of gold fastened to his hair, by way of ornament. Many others did not appear much inferior in point of dress but the poorer sort, being by far the greater number, had only skins of wild beasts, or pieces of cloth tied about their waists, and less quantities of gold tied in their hair. We also beheld a number of cattle grazing at some distance, which we took for asses; but, on farther inspection, we found them more like horses, in height, strength, and spirit, only their ears were large, and more like those of asses. They were properly trained for riding on or carrying burdens, of which they had plenty.

Our new master proved mild, humane, and gentle, to the highest degree, using us more like companions than slaves, both at victuals and otherwise, daily admiring our hats, caps, handkerchiefs, jackets, shirts, and trowsers, being all of the cloths we had; and when he first saw us cut things with a clasp-knife, he became almost frantic, having never seen the like before; yet he refused to accept of these valuable instru-

ments when freely offered up; for the blacks had not stripped or taken any thing from us, except the two axes, which they took from us when they first seized us, and which we never saw afterwards, although we did not wholly part from the negroes for near a month, during which time they continued bartering many of their own species with the Indians for cloths, gold and ivory, there being an annual meeting with them for such purpose.

We had now the pleasure of sleeping upon a grass matress, under a tent, with our new master, made of cloth, so covered with horse hides as to make it proof against all weather, such kind being used by the better sort of Indians, but those belonging to the lower class were made of skins only, and occasionally carried with them from place to place. Their diet chiefly consisted of fruits, roots, and herbs,, whereof they had the greatest variety growing wild and very good. Of fish, flesh, and fowl, they eat but very little, although in no want of cows, hogs, and goats; they had also many wild turkeys and a kind of partridge, weighing six or seven pounds, with various sorts of most delicious fish; but every beast, fowl, or fish which fell in the way of negroes, was greedily devoured by them without distinction, not even excepting the alligator and serpent, which the Indians often killed and gave to the negroes to eat, some of both kinds being five or six yards in length, which we had the opportunity of seeing before the tents were struck.

When the negroes returned, the Indians took their rout towards the east, through an open country very thinly inhabited for about 400 miles, having about 2000 of both sexes in company. with full as many horses. We had the pleasure to ride by our master's side, making regular stages of about 20 miles each, setting always off at sun-set, and pitching our tents at sun-rising, in which we mostly continued all day, to avoid the heat, which was extreme. having a sufficient quantity of negroe slaves employed to forage and bring in



provisions from the woods occasionally, some of which they roasted, and boiled others in rough coarse pots made of clay, neither glazed within nor without, but which stood the fire mighty well. Their favourite liquor was a mixture made of pine-apples, oranges, lemons, honey and water, which they had in great plenty throughout the whole journey, and sometimes palm-wine; but the former was holden in far greater esteem by the indians, who, instead of pitchers and glasses, make use of calabash and cocoa-nut shells for drinking utensils.

Having passed many rising hills, pleasant valleys, avenues, and crystal streams, we arrived in a town, containing four or five hundred houses, being low, built of cane and sticks, resembling basket work, and roofed with a kind of grass, which effectually keeps out the storms. Here old, young, rich, poor, male, and female, came to see our dress and colour, in such numbers, as partly to break our rest, though nothing but civility appeared in their behaviour. We were in like manner gazed on as we passed through every town and village, which seldom lay more than five or ten miles apart, till we reached the capital, near a hundred miles farther east, containing three or four thousand houses, having in the latter part of this journey, crossed three shallow rivers, directing their course from south to north; one passing close by the town, and, as we supposed, they might all three run into one near the equator, or possibly discharge themselves into another running from east to west, and fall into the Atlantic ocean. The misfortune I had of losing my instruments in the vessel was now much lamented, having only a quire of writing paper in the whole, and that luckily concealed in the rock, except one sheet with an ink-horn which I had in my pocket, with which I kept this short account, but what prevented us from taking the true situation of this place, which to the best of my judgment lies 21 or 22 east longitude, and 15 or 16 south latitude.

We

We had the honour of being presented to his majesty soon after our arrival, and were most agreeably received, without shewing more homage than that of the following example of our conductor, who, on approaching near, prostrated himself on the earth, which we observing took the hint, and did the same, whence we were quickly raised by his majesty's hand, who appeared in a lingering state of health. He, for some considerable time, viewed us both with a most agreeable air: then, conversing a little with our conductor, we were taken into another room on the same floor, the palace having no rooms above any more than any other house: hence we had as free access to his majesty as to our master, who proved to be a state-minister, frequently attending court: here we were in many respects as well off, if not much better than his majesty, as we had delicious dishes of our own cooking, which he could not taste of. We found his majesty's complaint, whereof he had been ill several months, to be a kind of intermitting fever, resembling that I had been troubled with at Amsterdam, and of which I was cured by taking of flour of brimstone, which I since held in such esteem, as still to have some in my pocket, and by sign prevailed on him to take regularly as much as lay on a shilling each night and morning for the space of fifteen days, mixt with honey, which wrought a perfect cure in him, and highly advanced us to the esteem of both king and people. We had nothing more to do than to command, and to be obeyed in every thing we could reasonably expect or desire, which made the time pass smoothly on till the 2d. of August, 1771. We had such rain in the months of May and June; which over, the Indians prepared for another trading journey, by packing up their cloth in bags, made of skins, each piece of cloth being about five feet long, and two feet broad, worked by hand, without the help of looms, from a kind of weed, resembling flax, that grew wild about the country. They have no inclosures, and did not seem to know the real value of gold, which their children had been picking up from the rivulets during the whole year, and flattening the largest bits by beating them between two stones, for their own ornaments, packing up the remainder with many elephants teeth and skelves,

These preparations opened a new scene, which gave us no small hopes of being thereby enabled to visit the cove or creek  
whence

whence the negroes brought us; and, having learned some little of their language, partly by words, and partly by motion, we made his majesty sensible of our desire, which he readily agreed to oblige us in. Accordingly at the time above mentioned, we set off with our master, accompanied by his former train of merchants, being a little sooner than usual, as appeared by our arrival at the creek or inlet near a week before the Negroes, who according to the best account I could obtain, had likewise a considerable nation of our own situate near the sea coast, and extending north and south to a considerable distance on each side the inlet: As to the sloop we found nothing of her, except a few ground timbers, with the foot of the stem and stern posts, appearing to have been cut off a little above the sands, wherein these remains were settled fast, and must in course have been thus cut and torn to pieces with the help of the two axes that we lost; the negroes having no tools, or other instrument of iron with them, we could perceive. Our other affairs being still safe, we removed them from the cove to our master's tent where every article, except those wrapped in paper, was separately examined with surprise and wonder; but no one thing allowed to be made use of, or taken from the bulk, till we returned to court on the 27th of October following; where they were likewise reviewed by the king, Queen, and his three other attendants, with equal astonishment. Six small nails, a gimlet, with about an ounce of thread, two needles, three musket balls, a knife, and a pair of scissars, being given to the priest standing by an altar made of earth, whereon he laid them, he made a kind of harangue, or speech, for the space of about ten minutes, to the chief or greatest part of the inhabitants residing in the neighbourhood, all of whom shewed a kind of religious attention to what he said. Which being over, he took them up from the altar, walked in procession before the king and queen, and their attendants, being likewise followed in good order to a grove, at the distance of near a mile from the town; wherein was an opening, between the trees, of about two hundred yards in width at its first entrance, running taper towards the upper end, where stood a kind of wall made with the dried skulls of different kinds of wild beasts and other animals, carefully placed on each other, and painted different colours: the largest being that of an elephant, was fixed near the center, wherein having put these wonderful curiosities, he harangued the congregation as before, when every one



one separately withdrew to his own habitation. The formal ceremony being over, a like quantity was claimed by his majesty, and as many more by our master; which we considered as a duty paid to the state and clergy, being justly due to them as a moderate demand on many goods imported.

The clergy are holden in much esteem; the circumcise all their male children at a month old; and according to the best account we could obtain, they believe in God, or earth; as also in demons, evil spirits, ghosts, and apparitions, to whom they commonly sacrifice hogs, goats, and turkeys, on an altar of earth.

A little before their merchants set off on their trading journey, a cow was sacrificed on their altar at the time of the new moon, with great devotion seemingly paid to the planet. Being now well acquainted with the value of our mercantile stock, as also with the mutual disposition of the people and manner of travelling thro' the country, we jointly agreed to dispose of all the goods we intended to part with, for gold, negroes slaves, and horses, to assist in conveying us across the torrid zone, to Ethiopia; which said undertaking we thought no ways impracticable, and if such point could once be gained made not the least doubt of reaching Europe by way of Egypt. The first step we therefore took, was to make his majesty fully sensible that we intended to change them for gold; whereat he appeared highly delighted, and soon furnished us with about a quarter of a hundred weight of that metal in small bits, the largest of which did not weigh above an ounce; for which he took a hammer, a gimlet, and about twenty pounds of nails, in return, after having seen their use fairly tried. The next articles he examined were, an ax, a hand-saw, and a looking glass. It gave us no small pleasure to see his majesty chopping off the small boughs all round a tree, as high as he could reach with the ax, then cutting them off another with the hand-saw, till nearly spent for want of breath: and on seeing himself in the glass, which had not been taken from the paper sooner, he hastily ran back some yards with his eyes fixed on it: then approaching slowly, peeped behind to and again, several times before

before we could prevail on him properly to examine it in his hands. As to the needles and thread we made them sensible of their worth, by stitching the flaps of two noblemens vests together as they stood near each other, who, on perceiving them fastened, looked greatly chagrined: but we soon dispelled their fears, by cutting them asunder with the scissars, whereat a sudden laughter ensued; and with a view to continue such pleasantry, we tied various strings of beads round the neck and arms of her majesty, and other ladies of rank, wherewith his majesty and attendants were not so well pleased as we expected, neither did they resume their usual air of behaviour, until we had also bedecked them in like manner.

We, upon the whole, found customers enough at court to purchase all our goods except two muskets with their bayonets, the pistols, and cutlasses, powder, shot, with five pieces of cotton, six pounds of thread, a hundred needles, three gimlets ten or twelve pound of nails, with a single article of every kind which we did not think proper to part with, our wearing apparel being likewise reserved. The sale being over, we found ourselves possessed of about 200 weight of gold, with two complete tents, and cooking materials of the best kind, six negro-slaves, fifteen horses, with bags and other geers necessary to perpare us for so long a journey after their mode of travelling. One imprudent step nearly ruined all future hopes of success; his majesty in viewing the fire arms, though still ignorant of their use, appeared extremely desirous of being satisfied concerning that point, and being over willing to oblige him therein, without cautiously reflecting on the consequences that might ensue, I loaded my piece with swan-shot, and seeing two ostriches within reach, let fly in the presence of many hundred spectators, and killed them both; when the unexpected report, with the flash from the muzzle, and manner of seeing them deprived of life, so terrified his majesty, and other spectators, that we were in a few minutes deserted and left with only two negro slaves, who appeared so fastened to the ground with the panic, as to be thereby rendered unable to get away, but soon after found means to give us the slip.

The misfortune brought on by this unforeseen accident, proved nothing less than a total separation from all farther communication with the Indian chiefs, or others of the same nation: every one, both male and female, running to a great distance on seeing us approach; neither did all the motions and signs we could make use of prove sufficient to invite them near enough to converse and be convinced of our inoffensive designs and good-will towards them; their houses were all deserted wherever we came, and every article contained therein left to our disposal, yet we did not touch or embezzle any thing except provisions; and, finding ourselves thus foolishly deprived of our six slaves, and that we need not expect any other assistance from them or the Indians, it reduced us to the disagreeable necessity of dividing our small cargo into thirteen parts, and laying it on as many horses, though not more than what six usually carried, reserving the others to ride on; and after having implored the divine aid, we ventured to set off on the 9th of November, bending our course north east, or as near that point as we could guess by the rising of the sun; that being all the guide we had to trust to; and, the news flying before us from town to town, we found them all without inhabitants, and the people at some distance viewing us in crowds, as we passed along till the 16th of the same month.

We always set off at sun-set, moving on about four hours in the morning, and at the same time in the evening, to avoid the extreme heat of the mid-day sun, not venturing to travel by night through fear of the wild beasts, or other accidental misfortunes we might be liable to meet with in passing through such a vast extent of unknown country; and being at this time clear of the full inhabited parts, we found ourselves unable to make good more than ten or twelve miles a day, for want of slaves to forage for provisions which took much time; but we were obliged to put up with this inconvenience, and we continued at such a rate, without meeting with any thing extraordinary than usual, till the 21st of December, when Jenkins, hastily drawing his cutlass, at one blow cut a serpent through at the distance of eighteen inches below the head, as it was moving towards us, and very near seizing me behind: this narrow escape



put us more on our guard than usual, especially whilst seeking provisions, as it happened at such a time. It measured about seven yards long, and ten inches through in the thick part, with a grey back and speckled belly, in shape resembling those small snakes we have in the island of Great Britain.

Till this time we met with good water every day running from the hills and mountains, that were situate on one side or other, as we passed along; but now entering a low flat country we found none the first day's journey, which gave us no small uneasiness, by reason of our having no more than what was barely sufficient to supply the beasts with; nevertheless, venturing on the next day, we came to a rivulet by seven o'clock in the morning; and pitching our tent near the spot, began to prepare for the consequence, by filling our water bottles, or rather bags, consisting of twenty-four in number, each bag holding about five gallons, English measure, being made of cow hides, fastened two and two together by the Indians, for the purpose of hanging across the horses backs, answering better than small casks, they being equally tight; and without such convenience we must have absolutely perished with thirst, or returned whence we came, as in the course of the journey, it so happened, that we several times passed on for the space of four, five, and even six days at a stretch without being able to procure more water than what was carried in those bags, which took so much time in filling, as thereby to keep us from setting off till day light next morning.

We continued our rout through the flat country, mostly knee-deep in grass, among which lay many serpents; but none happened in our way so large as that before described. We seldom got sight of any hills, and what we saw appeared very low. On the first of February, 1772, we came into very wet and swampy ground, more plentifully stocked with alligators than in other parts of the journey; by which we conjectured that we were drawing near the banks of some river, which the lofty trees in front concealed from our sight, accordingly, ascending the top of a tree, I saw the river at no great distance, appearing to be near a mile across in the

narrowest part, directing its course from east to west, but in a circular form, resembling that of a half moon, into whose bite or hollow, we had accidentally fallen : and being unable to cross with the cattle, we were obliged to alter our rout due east, keeping along the south-side, till a place shallow enough to pass over it might offer. Nothing more dispiriting could well have happened, for from day to day, and week to week, we searched for the long wished for spot without success; and what made this disappointment still more distressing, was our meeting with another river, which discharged itself into that from the south, appeared equally difficult to cross. This reduced us to the disagreeable necessity of traversing its course, as we had done the former. After all, we were obliged to encamp on the west-side, till after the wet season, which began on the 17th of April.

In the course of the journey, we suppose to be 1100 or 1200 miles, few black people came in view, and those at such a distance that we could not tell whether they were Indians or negroes. We saw many elephants, and found several large teeth lying on the ground, but did not judge them worth carrying away. We once thought we saw a lion at a distance, but were not certain : however, a leopard came in view. We also saw a number of monkeys of different colours, with many wild cattle, horses, buffaloes, deer, goats, and other four-legged animals; but the most terrible of all was the barking of wolves, which frightfully echoed from the woods by night, and the alligators. To secure us from these, we always kept a fire burning by night near our tent, where the horses continually grazed, having been, as we suppose, regularly trained to such a habit. The whole fifteen were still in good order, our health no way impaired, and we returned thanks for such a valuable blessing.

On the 15th of July, we resumed our journey, it having for some time been dry, and the river which had overflowed a large tract of land, drawn within its banks.

On the 18th, we saw large hills right before us; on the 21<sup>st</sup> we came to three huts in a valley, near the foot of a

hill, which had ten negroes of both sexes in them, who at first seemed timorous and fearful, but growing bolder, they at length conducted us safe over the river, for which piece of service we gave them six small nails, a needle, and a skain of thread, wherewith they seemed very well pleased. Hence we changed our rout to north east, as near as we could think, intending to fall in with the other river, where it might be found passable.

We met now and then with rising hills and pleasant valleys; thinly inhabited with negroes, some of whom attempted to seize our horses, but I fired my piece over their heads, which made them fly to a great distance; others behaved civilly, in bringing us palm-oil, fruits, yams, and cocoa-nuts, for which we made suitable returns, and offered to purchase one or two of their people, but they refused to sell any. In the low flat country we saw but few, and these so very shy as always to keep a sufficient distance from us; yet these few made the face of the country far more lively and pleasant to pass thro' than that in the former part of our journey had been.

On the 13th of August, we fell in with a river, directing its course from south-east to north-west, whose banks we traced till the 15th, and then crossed it safe near the foot of a hill, where observing the highlands to run along farther east, and, the nearer we approached, the more inhabitants there seemed to be, who frequently shewed strong inclinations to molest us; we therefore agreed to travel in the flat, but keep as near the highland as we could with safety, looking upon this as a branch only, and we might expect to find the main river lying still before us, which proved to be the case; for, after this, we met with running streams far more frequently, as a week seldom passed without our having one or more of them to cross. The inhabitants of the plain also grew bolder, and by the 20th of September, when we saw hills right a-head, their numbers so increased, that we thought it dangerous to proceed farther. Upon this we once took our rout due north, for we well knew that the



main body of the river lay that way, if we had not already passed over it, keeping as far from the high land as usual.

On the 4th of October, we fell in with it, but it was still impassable, though not more than 200 yards across, which obliged us to trace its banks towards the hills, in the sight of blacks every day, whose numbers multiplied as we drew near, till we at length observed them hovering at some distance in parties of six or seven together, as though intent in making us their prey; we therefore prepared for the expected attack, by loading our pistols, moving on with fixed bayonets, having lost our fowling pieces in the sloop.

On the 19th we came to rising ground, where the stream appeared shallow enough to cross, and the blacks observing us descend the bank, which was not very steep on the other side, quickly joined all their parties into one body, making upwards of twenty in all, and proved so very swift of foot, as to lay hold of every horse we had before they reached the water's edge; these two we rode on being surrounded by nine or ten, who aimed to pull us off; but having placed ourselves close together, two of the boldest were instantly run through the body with our bayonets, which did not put an end to their designs, or prevent the rest from endeavouring to pull the lading from off our horses; nay, so fully bent were they on our destruction, that with two wooden spears, the only weapons they had among them, our two nags were both killed, and we were obliged to defend ourselves on foot, and to use fire arms for the preservation of our lives.

We dispatched half a dozen with our pistols in less than two minutes, and observing two others make up the bank, laden with bags from off the horses, we took aim with our muskets, and proved lucky enough to drop them both, which struck the rest with such a panic, as to make them disperse

different ways, leaving ten of their companions either killed, or so wounded, as in our opinion they could not recover.

We then put our lading to rights, and crossed the river with thirteen horses, having lost the other two in this unhappy affair; and seeing other parties of blacks on this side, in order to avoid the spilling of more blood, we took our rout due-west, keeping near the water side till the 14th, when, perceiving ourselves to be out of all danger of future attacks from their number, we changed our rout for the northward, pursuing that line till the 18th, when the rain set in with such violence as obliged us to encamp, and remain in or near that spot till the 17th, of December, not having made three good days journey during that space of time; a circumstance we could not otherwise account for, except that of our being got 10 or 11 degrees nearer the equator, having during the months we were at the Indian town, observed only now and then a thunder-storm to happen, and those of too short duration to obstruct their trading journies.

Hence we continued on our usual rout in the sight of blacks, or their huts, almost every day, till the 24th of January, 1773, whee we came to such extensive sands in front as the best eye could not see over, also lying on our right and left, where the horses feet sunk down so low as rendered all our efforts to cross them entirely useless, being surrounded with uncommon dangers on every side; Ethiopia, the only civilized part we expected to reach, being separated from us by this sandy desert, though at no greater distance than about five or six hundred miles in our opinion; it was therefore agreed that we must either find means to pass over them, or never return to Europe. Our affairs therefore being thought more desperate than ever, we again turned towards the negroes in the east, chiefly keeping the sands in view, till our retreat was cut off on the 29th, by a party of fifteen or thereabouts, while as many more shewed themselves in front, to all appearance fully bent on putting an end to our future travels; we therefore without hesitation, shot both their leaders while briskly marching up in front

and rear, we dispersed the rest among the trees, wherewith the country, though flat, was very well supplied; affording many places of concealment, whence they might, one time or other, fall upon us by surprise, which was more likely to happen, as their numbers daily multiplied; and, seeing no end to the sands, though we believed this to be the shortest way to it if we could pass on, which seemed impossible on account of the distance we might have to travel among the blacks, we, for the preservation of our lives agreed to return back and seek for a passage in the west, though attended with ever so much fatigue and labour; even preferring all other difficulties and dangers that might befall us, to those of being robbed and massacred by these uncivilized negroes, of whom we, by turning to the opposite point, lost sight in ten or eleven days, still having the sands in view, but no inhabitants to dispute our passage if it could be found that way.

We continued on till the beginning of March, when we saw the good land circling round, by little and little, till it ran along at about north-west.

On the 17th of March it began to mizzle and rain, and daily continued, with very little intermission, till the 16th of April following; during which time our travelling had not been thereby delayed, as it cooled the air, and enabled us to get on a little faster, not being attended with such dreadful storms as usually happened in other parts of the country; when observing the vegetable part circle round to the south-west, we found ourselves on the most northerly point, near three parts surrounded by sand, which at this time were so fastened with continual rains as to be thereby rendered much better for the cattle to travel on than grass.

Being therefore unwilling to let slip such a favourable opportunity, we procured some fruits, roots, and herbs, with the part of a hog ready drest; then loading the cattle with as much water and grass as they could well carry, we recommended ourselves to the Almighty's protection; and at day break on the 16th. ventured upon the sands, taking our rout northerly, by the direction of the sun, as it now



and then crept through the mist. We proved lucky enough to arrive safe in a vegetable country next evening, lying at the distance of forty miles or thereabouts, although the former part of our journey did not, in our opinion, exceed ten miles a day one day with another.

Having returned thanks to Almighty God for such marks of his divine favour, manifestly shewed in safely guiding us across these dangerous sands, we gave the cattle three days rest; then pursued our rout in the same line of direction till the 15th, when again the sands appeared in front, being too extensive to cross, which repeated trials at length convinced us of; as also that such like mizzleing rain fell twice a year chiefly setting in near the middle of march, & ceasing in the beginning of May; and again from the latter end of September to the middle of November, continually fastening the sands, which were, at all other times, soft and impassable.

During the dry months we found ourselves in a fruitful spot, inclosed on every side with deserts, containing about 200 miles in length, from east to west, and half the extent in the broadest part, from north to south having gone over the whole completely; and in struggling to gain the main land, from the different parts of the east, west, and north sides, we spared no pains, having thereby lost three of our best cattle, in soft holes or quicksands, by the month of November, 1774, when the consequent result of so many disappointments, continually attended with such uncommon fatigue in the wet, proved nothing less than a sudden decline of my fellow traveller's health, who, being seized with a pain throughout his limbs was thereby shortly reduced to uncommon distress and misery, without hope of a proper remedy; for want thereof the disorder increased, his stomach failed, his flesh declined, his voice became low, his body weak and pain so great as not to bare turning without making piteful groans; and when he saw me truly diligent in procuring every thing within the reach of my power, and carefully administering to his relief, with real marks of true compassion for such his unhappy condition, frequently trembling at the thoughts of being separated by death, and so reduced to a far more dreary situation than before, he exclaimed, Alas! if you knew but all, you would not think so

much of parting from me, notwithstanding the consequence of your being left by yourself in this lonesome place, which sometimes foretels me will assuredly happen; as also, that kind Providence will afterwards release and bring you safe back to Europe. Know then, that, as the words of a dying man, what I am going to add may be depended on as really true:

I have long since been pressed in mind to disclose the same, but my stubborn heart would not give way thereto; and, however great your surprise may be, it is no less true that I came to London with my fortune, which you know to be considerable; and, thinking it sufficient to support an independant character, soon formed an acquaintance with several young gentlemen, whose substance was far before their living, I soon became so very streightened, for want of cash, as to find no better way of supporting the character I had begun than by closely connecting myself with, and becoming subservient to, the dictates of three high-lived sharpers; who so far explained the mystery of dice and cards, and laid out the part I was to act for the himpse of securing success on all occasions, as soon convinced me of their dangerous tendency, and how impossible it is for such as suspect not their designs to escape falling into the trap. You were the first I ever ensnared that way; for which treacherous piece of villainy I received a fourth part of their fortune, being from that time extolled as an useful member of their society, living in all manner of vice and debauchery, from year to year, till our characters became exposed, and we pointed out a notorious set of gamblers.

Our income declined, and our extravagant way of living continued, which caused us to betake ourselves to collecting on the high-way, till one of the party was apprehended by Sir John Fielding's men; who having got full scent of another, in order to save my own bacon, I slipped over to Amsterdam, and in less than a week I received a friendly invitation from an unknown hand, requesting me to spend an evening with an English gentleman, at a capital house in Wormer-street, where the biter was at length bit, and I most justly paid off in my own coin; not suspecting any cheat, I was there left full of wine, being afterwards stripped, confined in prison, then cruelly treated with blows and short allowance, till for the preservation of my life, I consented to ship myself

under the denomination of a Swede, and go to India in the same vessel that proved the instrumental cause of our being here.

Can you therefore pardon or excuse a wretch, who has most wickedly robbed you of all you had, and consequently reduced you to the necessity of working for your daily bread? Nay more, you being here, is most likely owing to that very transaction, Providence having brought it so about, to punish me in your presence, therefore grieve not after such a wretch as the justice of heaven thinks proper to afflict; especially as you see me unworthy to have the least mark of esteem; but rather content yourself with solitude, till such time as divine providence shall see fit to releate you from it as a Christian far more worthy of his protection than what I am.

The open hearted manner, in which he so voluntarily declared as before, so endeared him to me, that, notwithstanding past failings, I could not think of parting with him; I therefore shewed no marks of displeasure, but returned such reply as appeared most likely to alleviate his melancholy thoughts by assuring him of the increase and continuance of my friendly esteem, as also furnishing him with a short sketch of my own life, or such part as appeared most likely to shew myself as great a sinner, and, if possible, less intitled to the divine protection than what he really was: But all I could say upon that or any other subject proved useless; for he departed this life on the 17th of January, 1775, persisting in his former opinion to the very last moment. I therefore removed the tent, and digging a grave on the spot whereon it stood, made shift to inter his remains therein, with all the funeral rites due to the corpse of a departed friend, being the last, as I thought, of the human species I was like to see.

I now resigned myself to my fate; and, the tents being nearly worn out, I built a hut or habitation, after the Indian manner and therein found the tools and nails extremely useful; then I converted the tents and skins into bedding, and made the whole as comfortable as circumstances would allow being situate near a crystal stream that sprung up at the foot of a rising hill, and came trickling down the hut, whence I had a prospect of the western sands.

I next considered, that my stock of gun-powder was more than one half expended, and, if entirely so, I should be rendered unable to procure any other kind of provisions except roots, fruits, and herbs.



This put me on a plan of catching some young turkies, fowls, partridges, hogs, goats, and deer, alive, which had all this time been my common diet, and therein I proved successful, for I took the young birds out of their nests, and caught the others in snares set among trees and bushes; and thus, with some degree of pleasure, I raised up a tame supply, time enough to reserve a quantity of ammunition, sufficient to defend myself against the wild beasts; there being lions, tigers, hyænas, leopards, wolves and crocodiles, though not so many but I happily escaped being assailed by any, except the hyæna, which ran at me with such fury as to receive the point of a bayonet, and the full contents of my piece, down his throat, which laid him squawling on the ground.

For the support of my tame brood, I dug up with much difficulty, a quantity of roots that grew wild and transplanted into about half an acre of ground, lying in two different spaces near the hut. In the space of three months I received a plentiful crop; the one half the produce being excellent yams, and the other half potatoes, of six or seven pounds each, exactly resembling those in Europe for shape and colour, being equally as dry, but very sweet.

I had tropical fruits of all kinds in the greatest abundance as also, honey, sugar cane, and tobacco, with grapes and raisins, pepper and spice of various kinds, but no salt, and was therefore obliged to make shift without it; to which I may add the cabbage-tree, bread fruit, and exceeding good spirage all the year round.

In order to preserve my life stock from the beasts of prey by night, I built two out-houses for their reception, wherewith they soon became acquainted, and grew so tame as to give me very little trouble in keeping them together. The apparel I usually wore was a cotton cap, shirt, and a pair of trowsers, of my own making, with the addition of a deer skin jacket and cap, during the rainy months. The arms I carried were a loaded musket and fixed bayonet, a brace of pistols, cutlafs, and an ax fastened in a hairy belt; thus accoutred, I usually rode and walked about the country, having much spare time. I also examined the running streams of gold, and frequently saw it lie in small bits of various shapes and sizes, among the gravel, without giving myself the least trouble or concern to pick it up; nay, so plenty was the metal, that, after every shower of rain that fell, I could plainly see it intermixed in the sands in many different parts, being considered as of little or no more value than lead, and, as such, would have been blown out of my gun, had that article run short. I likewise saw it lie in many other parts of our journey, which persuades me to believe, that gold lies near the surface, without a vein running downwards, as in such case, it would be as plenty as copper, and consequently of no more value,

I at various times picked up some diamonds in the sands with much indifference; having procured three dozen of different colours, all transparent, with a few of the brilliant kind, every time I looked thereon, my youthful ambition was held in remembrance, accompanied with melancholy reflec-

tions concerning the death of my parents; on which account, I believe myself to have been most justly banished from the society of all mankind, to live among the wild beasts, and there enjoy the wealth I had so much longed for, by way of punishment for hankering after it when I had enough and stood not in the least need thereof. Such thoughts were more strongly impressed when at my daily devotion, wherein I was continually resigned, believing my lot just and myself deserving of it.

Frequently musing thus, whilst seated on a mossy bank lying between the hut and the rivulet, on the 11th of April, 1782. I was alarmed with the sound of human voice, coming from behind the hut, which threw me into the greatest perturbation of mind; however I hastily approached in a defensive posture, and was still more surprised with the appearance of five well dressed gentlemen, all armed with fuses, and swords by their sides, appearing equally astonished at seeing me there, which they expressed with such tender looks of compassion as soon gave me to understand, that, instead of enemies: real friends, which they accordingly proved to be, accosting me in an unknown language: then in broken French; desiring to know what strange miracle had brought me there; which I understanding, informed them of in the same language, as also concerning the loss of my companion by death upwards of 7 years ago; which having properly attended to they discoursed a little.

Then, turning to me again, said, if I were desirous of leaving the spot where I then was, and would consent to have my eyes tied up, or so muffled that I could not see the way, they would in the space



of a few days bring me to a country, where I might, during the remainder of my days, enjoy the company of a civilized people; which I thankfully accepting, shewing them my gold, and other materials; whereat they smiled saying, I should not be deprived of a single ounce; for both that and every other thing of carriage, should go along with me.

By this time appeared three other men, with a number of camels from the north, who came to this spot for water to supply them on the desert, which they were prepared to cross; I therefore offered up my breed of live-stock, or such part as they would accept for their use; and all being ready, with my gold, ammunition, arms, tools, nails and cotton, they according to agreement blindfolded my eyes; and, on the 13th we set off at a pretty rate, as I apprehended by the motion of the beast whereon I sat, covered with an oil-skin coat made of silk, as was every other person, having also light tents of the same materials, that stood proof against the wet; but took very little rest till the 19th, when, having reached the verdure by my account, they incamped for the space of ten or twelve hours; then they pursued their rout over the grass till the 25th, when I was conducted to a feather bed to repose on, which appeared so much like the delusion of a dream, that I could not sleep; and much more so the next day when, having the bandage taken off I beheld myself in the midst of a large beautiful and elegant city, inferior to none I had ever seen for grandeur; the whole formed one regular circle of about twenty miles, with twenty-four capital streets, running from the center to the out skirts, at an equal distance from each other.

The town house was a most noble structure, wherein the city business was transacted; it stood in the center, being the highest part thereof, whence I could see the twenty-four streets, all running in a line to the country, from as many windows facing each of them.

There was also ninety-six octagon buildings of equal height and magnitude which appeared in view, with an image representing the sun, either plated or gilt, on the top of each; which, with a far greater number of elegant structures and obelisks, on the flat roofs of almost every house, which were covered with shining metal of various colours at first sight gave the whole a most brilliant appearance.

In midst of this surprise, I was carefully examined before the sovereign prince, concerning the customs, manners, numbers, and situation, of the inhabitants I had met with, from the first of my landing on the continent, to the time they found me at the hut; but their French being very imperfect, I was a considerable time in making them understand me properly. When, fully convinced of the great distance the blacks lived from the hut, as also of their being so thinly-strewn, without fire arms or any other weapons of defence, a sacred pleasure seemed to overspread the countenance of his majesty and all present.

Many other questions were then asked concerning French, English, and other European powers, all of which I answered to the best of my judgment, and was dismissed, with orders to continue within the circle of the city, as their laws would not as

yet permit me to exceed those bounds. The houses were all built of brick, three stories high, being covered and railed about the top with different sorts of metal, whereon the people usually amused themselves in the cool of the evening, appearing to live in the greatest harmony with each other; neither was their good-will to strangers less, as I was every where entertained freely with the best, without payment, and never refused admittance to the top of any house whatever, which furnished me with an opportunity of seeing the country, which was well stocked with houses, towns, and bridges, on every side, as also vineyards, gardens, corn-meadows, pasture, and other green fields, with an innumerable quantity of camels, dromedaries, and horses.

Upon the 24 capital roads I saw some laden with burdens, and others yoked in wheel-carriages, bringing provisions and merchandise to and from the city: coaches, chaises, chairs, and other machines of that kind, being seldom used, except by such as could not walk; I therefore saw but few of them. Their common diet was fish, flesh, and fowl, with butter, cheese, milk, fruits, roots, and herbs, in the greatest variety, which in dressing they make extremely palatable, or my having been so long without salt caused me to think so. They likewise had tea, chocolate, and sugar, with rum, brandy, and many sorts of excellent wines in plenty, but very seldom drank to excess, or disguised themselves therewith.

The numerous artists were truly ingenious in manufacturing almost every kind of hard and soft ware, except woollen, whereof they had none,



But made amends for such loss with cotton, silk, and linens, wherein they excelled all I ever saw elsewhere.

In regard to distinction, very little was shewn to the ruling magistrates, great men, or clergy, more than others; yet all readily obeyed their commands in every point without complaining or murmuring. Every thing I saw persuaded me to believe, that, if true christian charity were established there, they would be the most happy of all the human race.

In the space of eight months I became so far acquainted with their language, as thereby to discover that unless I married, and were in other respects conformable to certain conditions imposed on me by their laws concerning a determined resolution of remaining there with my family, I could not otherwise be allowed to range more than ten miles from the town-house, round which there was a vacant spot of ground, containing about five hundred yards in width from the other houses, where criminals for murder, theft, and adultery, were punished in the following manner.

The two former being led three times round the town-house with a label on their back and breast, purporting the crime they had been guilty of, were then committed to prison for life, and after death, publicly hung in the same place where they had been so exposed: and the latter, with no difference than that of tying the male to a ram or he-goat, and the female to a salt bitch, with the necessary labels, and every other part of the punishment as inflicted on the former: nay, such an aversion had they from spilling of human blood, that, by their own account, no sort of criminals were ever put to

death by their own laws; and, according to tradition, a most plentiful country beyond the deserts had, upwards of 3000 years ago, been quite forsaken by their ancestors, in order to avoid spilling the blood of some neighbouring enemy that made war against them.

They, with their wives and families, made shift to cross the deserts to this place, where their posterity have flourished ever since, and lived peaceably together, without meeting with any molestation from troublesome neighbours; and their situation being still unknown to other nations, they, to prevent disputes and quarrels with them, choose to keep so.

Hence, it appears the only reason they had, for confining me within such narrow bounds, was fear, lest I should find my way to any other nation, and by making their situation known, involve them in future broils.

They all agreed to its being handed down from their ancestors, that two strangers came amongst them about 100 years ago, one of them was a Frenchman, who married a princess, and lived there highly respected for something more than 20 years, during which time several persons learned to converse in his language, some relics whereof remained among the courtiers: and the other being suspected of treachery, every necessary caution that could be made use of to prevent his designs from taking place was practised, yet he made the attempt, and failing therein, shot himself through the head with a pistol.

They style themselves the Twelve Tribes, and were distinguishable by as many different sorts of

dress. They were of a brown complexion; but their origin I could not trace out.

Upon the whole, in making love to a female, with an intent to marry, and have my bounds enlarged, I made use of such innocent freedom as would sooner have been approved of than deemed a fault in Britain: for which I was accused before the ruling magistrate, who, giving ear to the charge, it was made good: whereupon I was committed to prison for life, as a capital offender against their laws, on the 5th of March, 1783. My wealth being left to my own disposal, now became useful. Gold was so plenty among them, as to be something less in value than silver.

In a few days, the person who brought me from the hut, called on me, and conversed several hours with me concerning the laws of Britain: against which he at length became sensible I had not transgressed in the affair whereof I stood convicted: therefore, on account of its having been occasioned more thro' ignorance than design, he promised to get my sentence altered to that of banishment to a country, whence I might easily find my way to Europe, if I would agree to be conveyed away in the same manner he brought me from the hut. An offer the most pleasing of all that could have been made in my then situation, which I most thankfully accepted of. He thereat appeared so well pleased as not to part without first convincing me in what a heinous light the crime, I had so inadvertantly committed, was looked on among them. He declared, that the first step which I ought to have pursued, was to inform myself concerning their mode of courtship, and in pursuing it might, with-



out any offence to the female sex or matrimonial laws, have procured a wife, by presenting the fair one most approved of with a rose bud, who, if she approved the suit, would place it in her bosom as a token of love, for me to present her with another, half blown, that day month; and, in that case she also placed that in her bosom, I was at full liberty to decline, or present her with another full blown, at the end of the second month; which if she likewise placed in her bosom as before, the match was so far concluded as not to be withdrawn, because they had two full months allowed to consider of it, by conversing together occasionally; and in case the man took any indecent freedoms during that space of time, he was sure to be considered as a dangerous member of society, and as such committed to prison for life, which on account of their regularity in that affair, seldom happens: the affections, of the married couple being the only thing considered, and, the stronger they appear linked together by it, the more pleasure it gives their friends. They never throw wealth into the scale, let the difference be ever so great, but always approve their love for each other as the only thing necessary to promote their future happiness. He then took his leave, and performed his word on the 29th of the same month, by carrying me away on the back of a camel, with eyes covered, having previously been shewn the exact weight of my gold, by weighing the same before me in prison.

We travelled six or seven days, before we came upon the deserts, and ten or eleven more before we got to the opposite verdure; then stopping a week, I had the pleasure of looking about me in the tent,

but no where else. After this, we had another journey of two days, between the verdure and the sands, and five or six more before we got over them; whence we pursued our journey till the 10th of May, 1783, when the bandage was taken from my eyes by an unknown person, who presented me with a laden camel, saying, Every thing thereon belonged to me, wherewith I was now welcome to provide for myself; and then he made the best of his way, leaving me in the open street of a large opulent city, without mentioning what place it was, or even waiting for my reply: where, the multitude I beheld passing and repassing about their own affairs, on foot, horse-back, and ass-back, with the grandeur of some, and meanness of others, sealed my lips with surprise. While I was gazing on the latter of these animals, which chiefly carried me since I left the sands, several persons thinking I was at a loss, came up to direct and put me right, but not being understood, others drew near by little and little, till I was surrounded with an innumerable crowd of people; from which disagreeable situation I was at length released by a person of no small authority: whose servant led my ass and camel to the convent of St. John, by his master's order, where a French missionary gave me to understand, that I was now in Grand Cairo, the Capital of Egypt, and thankfully rewarded the servant. I was there entertained with great hospitality: and, on opening my pack, found my full weight of gold, as weighed in the prison, with no difference, than that of its being changed into sequins, ducates, pistoles, and moidores, to the amount of thirteen thousand pounds sterling, with

some curious pieces of silks, cottons, and linens. This visible prospect of returning to Europe in such opulent circumstances, brought the dying words of Mr. Jenkins to my remembrance, and looking upon it as the entire work of Divine Providence, I therefore resolved on devoting the remaining part of my life to the service of heaven, and the good of mankind; at least so far as my natural capacity and substance, thus miraculously preserved, would admit of.

Being informed of three Italian merchants, that were pretty well versed in the French language, then in Cairo, and bound for Constantinople, I joined company with them, and accordingly set off the next day but one for Alexandria, which prevented me from visiting the antiquities of Cairo, which they say contains more than two millions of souls: but let that be how it will, in my judgment, the place itself covers much less ground than London, as appeared when upon the terrace of the castle, whence I had a complete prospect of the whole place, as also of old Cairo and the pyramids, from a different part of the castle: likewise Joseph's well cut in the solid rock for near 100 yards in depth, whence the castle had then a full supply of water.

At Alexandria we embarked on board a Turkish vessel, and after having touched at Smyrna, arrived at Constantinople, by the latter end of June. This city has a most elegant appearance, and is, without dispute, much larger than Cairo; said to contain full two millions of inhabitants, which, by its great extent, does not look altogether improbable. The established religion is Mahometanism, which depends wholly in keeping the main body



of the people in ignorance, and that is effectually performed, by prohibiting all manner of books, except written ones, which run so very high, that none but the great are able to purchase them; and this step enables the state to impose on the community, whatever they judge most likely to agree with their form of government; pretending to have prohibited the printing-press with no other view than to keep many thousands of book-writers employed, who would otherwise lie idle; but in my opinion the real fact is neither more nor less than just as above described, however, the Turks are in general extremely devout, and also charitable, and so exact in trade, that a child may be sent to the shop or market for things of value, without danger of being wronged, to the amount of a single farthing.

The men are allowed by law to have four wives of their own religion, and as many female slaves as they are able to purchase. daily buying and selling the female sex in the public market, like so many cattle, whose souls they consider as much inferior to their own, and consequently exclude them from equally sharing in the felicity of paradise.

Here I disposed of six diamonds to a Jew merchant for 5000 ducates, and bore him company thro' Belgrade to Vienna, and thence to Aix la Chapelle, where, being taken ill, I stopped six months, then set off for Brussels, and thence to Ostend, where, embarking for Dover, I, on the 13th of September 1784, arrived safe in London, after having been so many years absent from my native land.

F I N I S.

